



# School District No. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)

## AGENDA REGULAR BOARD MEETING MAY 16, 2017 SILVERTHORNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, HOUSTON, B.C. 7:00PM

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Traditional Welcome / Opening Remarks
- 3) Delegation to the Board
- 4) Adoption of Agenda
- 5) Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes – April 18, 2017  
Synopsis In-Camera Meeting – April 18, 2017
- 5) Administration Report C. van der Mark Report Attached
- 6) Committee Reports
  - a) Operations Committee F. Farrell Report Attached
  - b) Policy Committee B. Beaubien Report Attached
  - c) Trustee Report J. Williams Report Attached
  - d) Trustee Report L. Kearns Report Attached
  - e) Trustee Report P. Michelle Report Attached
  - f) Trustee Report F. Farrell Report Attached
  - g) Trustee Report D. Hanson Report Attached
- 7) Unfinished Business
  - 7.1) 2017 – 2018 Draft Annual Budget Bylaw
- 8) New Business
- 9) Other Business
  - 9.1) Expenditure Summary – April 30, 2017
- 10) Reading File
 

April 30, 2017 Enrollment figures
Ltr. frm. BV CPF re: MME K Enrollment
Ltr. frm. BV CPF re: SD54 Budget
Ltr. frm. MME registering parents: re French Immersion Enrollment
Ltr. frm. S. Sacharoff re: Article – oui je parle francais_mayjune
Ltr. frm. S. Sacharoff re: MME FI Enrollment
Ltr. frm. SD23 to Minister Bernier re: Approval of Memorandum of Agreement on March 10, 2017
Ltr. frm. SD42 to Minister Philoitt re: request for additional provincial funding for child and youth mental health services
Ltr. frm. D & L Germain re: MME FI Program
- 11) Closing Remarks - Next Board Meeting will be held on June 20, 2017 at the School Board Office, in Smithers, B.C., commencing at 7:00 p.m.
- 12) Adjournment
- 13) Public Remarks\*\*

**NOTES:**

**Delegations:** This item is intended to provide an opportunity to members of the public to make a presentation to the Board. Individuals wishing to be included on the agenda must submit a written request to the Secretary Treasurer at least one week prior to the meeting stating the subject of their presentation and including any background information to be considered by the Board.

**\*\*Public Remarks:** This item is intended to provide an opportunity to members of the public to make comments to the Board.



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)  
APRIL 18, 2017  
MORICETOWN MULTI-PLEX, MORICETOWN B.C.

**PRESENT:** Trustees: L. Kearns, F. Farrell, J. Williams, L. Collingwood, P. Michell, B.J. Beaubien  
D. Hanson

**Regrets:** C. van der Mark – Superintendent of Schools

**Staff:** M. McDiarmid – Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
D. Margerm – Secretary Treasurer  
B. Kingsmill – Recording Secretary

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

- The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm

**2. TRADITIONAL WELCOME / OPENING REMARKS**

- On behalf of Chief Ron Mitchell Hagwilneh from the Laksilyu Clan and Mr. Henry Alfred, Chief Ut'akgit, District Principal of Aboriginal Education Birdy Markert, delivered a traditional welcome to the Wit'suwit'en Territory to the Board of Education.
- Vice Chairperson Williams acknowledged that we are gathered on the home of the Wit'suwit'en Nation, traditional territory of the Likhsilya – Small Frog Clan.
- Vice Chairperson Williams welcomed all guests present and wished the HSS Rugby 7's good luck at the provincial championships. Superintendent van der Mark sent his regrets.

**3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**MOTION: *It was moved by Trustee Farrell and seconded by Trustee Collingwood.***

*"That the agenda be accepted as presented."*

CARRIED

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- The Vice - Chair asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of March 21, 2017 or the synopsis of the in-camera meeting minutes of March 21, 2017. There being none, the minutes of March 21, 2017 and the synopsis of the in-camera meeting minutes of March 21, 2017 were declared approved as presented.

**5. ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

- Assistant Superintendent McDiarmid presented the student achievement report to the Board. We are well into the staffing process for the 2017-2018 school year. Senior administration is also working thru the implementation process of the agreement returning to the teachers Collective Agreement language from 2001. SD54 has 22 District Authority Scholarships to award this year. Presentations will take place the week of May 8-12<sup>th</sup>.
- Assistant Superintendent McDiarmid presented the district based initiatives report to the Board. The next Education Forum will be held on Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup> and the focus will be on the SD54 Trades initiatives. Three (3) SSS students attended the Provincial Skills Canada competition in Abbotsford in March.

- Assistant Superintendent McDiarmid presented the school based initiatives report to the Board. The SSS theatre department just recently performed Romeo & Juliet to four sold out audiences. MME teacher Ms. Liliana Pesce has been working with her grade 4/5 class on a cross generational inquiry with the Meadows Seniors Home. She also has agreed to facilitate after schools visits next year to help maintain the relationships that have been built. 28 Muheim ESL students participated in the annual Concours French Public Speaking Competition. Grade 6 student Ava MacDougall and grade 7 student Melissa Pesce will be attending the provincial competition at SFU in May. Canfor in Houston has graciously donated the lumber for the Grade 6/7 picket table project in Houston.

### Field Trip Proposals

- The following field trips have been approved by the Assistant Superintendent:
  - **SSS – 16 +/-** Grade 11 Students from Smithers Secondary School to Tumbler Ridge, BC on May 23-26, 2017. This trip is to support the Biology 11 curriculum. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
  - **SSS - 20+/-** Grade 10-12 Outdoor Ed Students from Smithers Secondary School to travel to Haida Gwaii on May 7-15, 2017. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
  - **SSS -19 +/-** Grade 10-12 Outdoor Ed Students from Smithers Secondary School to travel to the Smithers Rod and Gun Club on April 25 & 26, 2017. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.

### Operations Report

- Secretary Treasurer Margerm presented the operations report to the Board. The 2017-2018 Draft Budget is being prepared and will be brought forward to the May operations committee meeting. SD54 has received two grants to support our schools: 1) Student Learning Grant \$100,738 and 2) Trades Grants \$226,845, to be disbursed over three years for trades and technology purchases. SD54 has received their annual capital letter confirming capital projects for the next year which include a grant for HSS air/heating handling systems for \$977,000 which is half of the total project. The second capital item is the possibility of a new Walnut Park School. The Ministry has requested an updated project development report (PDR) to be submitted by April 28th, 2017. The Ministry will be submitting the PDR to the Treasury Department for final approval. The Annual Facilities Grant (AFG) expenditures for next year has been drafted and the final report will be submitted to the Ministry. An outline of the proposed AFG spending will be outlined at May committee meeting. A new Hairdressing Program partnership with NWCC is proceeding with the plan to provide a Hairdressing Program from September 2017 to June 2018 and will be located at the old BVLC building. NWCC will provide the instructors and SD54 will provide the facility.

### 6.a) OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- Operations Chairperson Farrell presented the Operations Committee's Report from the April 4, 2017 committee meeting.
  - The Operations committee recommended that the draft policy concerning letter grades be provide by policy committee.

**MOTION: It was moved by Trustee Farrell and seconded by Trustee Collingwood.**

*"That the Board requests that the Policy Committee draft new language concerning the practice of issuing letter grades."*

CARRIED

- Next Meeting Tuesday, May 2, 2017 Time 5pm

**6.b) POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT**

- Policy Chairperson Beaubien presented the Policy Committee's Report from the April 4, 2017 committee meeting.
- The Committee recommended that the Board approve the draft revisions Policies 6.320 – French Language Program

**MOTION: It was moved by Trustee Beaubien and seconded by Trustee Collingwood**

*"That the Board approves that the draft Policy 6.320 – French Language Program be sent out for public consultation."*

CARRIED

- The Committee recommended that the Board approve the draft revisions for Policy 6.150 – Maintenance of School Order.

**MOTION: It was moved by Trustee Beaubien and seconded by Trustee Kearns.**

*"That the Board approves that the draft Policy 6.150 – Maintenance of School Order be sent out for public consultation."*

CARRIED

- The Committee recommended that the topic of the District Calendar Planning Cycle stay in committee for review and for the committee to provide recommendations for extended planning with regards to the district calendar.

**MOTION: It was moved by Trustee Beaubien and seconded by Trustee Kearns.**

*"That the Board approves that the District Calendar planning cycle remain with the Policy Committee."*

CARRIED

- Next Meeting Tuesday, May 2, 2017 @ 7:00pm

**6.c) TRUSTEE REPORTS**

- There were no Trustee Reports this month.

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- There was no unfinished business this month.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

- **8.1) 2017-2018 Annual Budget Bylaw:** The operations committee recommended that the Board proceed with two readings of the 2017-2018 Annual Budget Bylaw.

**MOTION: It was moved by Trustee Beaubien and seconded by Trustee Kearns.**

*"That the Board proceeds with the two readings for the 2017- 2018 Budget Bylaw."*

1 Abstained  
6 Approved  
CARRIED

**ANNUAL BUDGET BYLAW**

A Bylaw of THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY) (called the "Board") to adopt the Annual Budget of the Board for the fiscal year 2017/2018 pursuant to section 113 of the School Act, R.S.B.C., 1996, c. 412 as amended from time to time (called the "Act").

1. Board has complied with the provisions of the Act respecting the Annual Budget adopted by this bylaw.
2. This bylaw may be cited as School District No. 54 (Bulkley Valley) Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2017/2018.
3. The attached Statement 2 showing the estimated revenue and expense for the 2017/2018 fiscal year and the total budget bylaw amount of \$26,490,671 for the 2017/2018 fiscal year was prepared in accordance with the Act.
4. Statement 2, 4 and Schedules 2 to 4 are adopted as the Annual Budget of the Board for the fiscal year 2017/2018.

READ A FIRST TIME THE 18th DAY OF APRIL, 2017;  
READ A SECOND TIME THE 18th DAY OF APRIL, 2017;  
READ A THIRD TIME, PASSED AND ADOPTED THE \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2017;

NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED  
Chairperson of the Board

(Corporate Seal)

NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED  
Secretary Treasurer

I HEREBY CERTIFY this to be a true original of School District No. 54 (Bulkley Valley) Annual Budget Bylaw 2017/2018 adopted by the Board the \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED  
Secretary Treasurer

**9. OTHER BUSINESS**

- The March 31, 2017 expenditure summary was included in the Trustee Board packages.

**10. READING FILE**

**MOTION: *It was moved by Trustee Collingwood and seconded by Trustee Farrell.***

*"That the information contained in the Trustee Reading File be received and filed."*

CARRIED

**11. CLOSING REMARKS**

- The next regularly scheduled School Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 commencing at 7:00 pm at the Silverthorne Elementary School in Houston.

**12. ADJOURNED**

- The Board meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm.

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Approved by Les Kearns, Chairperson  
of the Board of Education

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Dave Margerm  
Secretary Treasurer

DRAFT



SYNOPSIS  
OF  
IN-CAMERA MEETING  
SCHOOL DISTRICT #54 (Bulkley Valley)  
APRIL 18, 2017  
MORICETOWN MULTI-PLEX, MORICETOWN B.C.

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:00pm and the Board resolved to go in-camera.

- The Vice- Chair asked if there were any corrections to the In-Camera meeting minutes of March 21, 2017. There being none, the In-Camera meeting minutes of March 21, 2017 declared approved as presented by the Vice-Chairperson.
- Administration reported on routine staffing issues and school suspensions.

The Board returned to regular session at 6:15pm.

DRAFT

# SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

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## REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION

to the  
Board of Education  
May 16, 2017

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### Student Achievement

- **SSS Drama** – Last month the SSS drama, theater and music students performed *Romeo & Juliet* to packed houses in the Della Herman.
- **SSS Band** – Traveled to Cuba last month and as always the students were excellent ambassadors of our community. Mr. Doogan-Smith commented on the rich cultural learning the students were able to be a part of.
- **District Authority Scholarships:** Grade 12 students from Houston Secondary and Smithers Secondary completed their presentations last week over a four day period. They were competing for 22 scholarships for \$1,250 each. The presentations were of a wide variety and a great showcase of skills from some of our best students. An excellent and rewarding four days. Thanks to the trustees for giving up their time to watch these students showcase their learning.
- **Thompson Rivers** - TRU has recruited SSS student athlete Jayden Haskins to join their cross-country running program.
- **Education Forum:** Thanks to Mr. de Boer and Mr. Audet as well as the very engaging students for sharing their experiences from Skills Canada. Students participated in wide ranging competitions, including: robotics, culinary arts, welding, mechanics, and carpentry. Once again, we are inspired by the passion these students show and by their gratitude for these opportunities.

## INNOVATION / INITIATIVES

### District Based Initiatives

- **Year End Celebration** – On Wednesday, June 14, 2017 we will be recognizing retirees and long service employees who will be awarded long service pins. This event will take place at Smithers Golf Course from 5:00 – 7:00pm. We encourage everyone to attend to recognize honoured staff members.
- **District Elementary Track** - On Friday, June 2nd the Annual Elementary Track Meet will be held at SSS. Contact your local elementary school for more info.
- **NWCC/BCCIE International Student Recruiting** — The District recently attended a meeting in Prince George to meet a number of international student recruiting agents. The meeting was hosted by regional post-secondary institutions who are interested in collaborating when it comes to international student recruitment.

# SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

- **Ready, Set, Learn** — Took place in Houston and Smithers area elementary schools on May 8-12th. Families and their three-year-olds and four-year-olds attended where they engaged in play-based early learning activities while finding out about the early learning programs and services offered by the school district and school. It was a fun filled session of activities, snacks and the families left with a gift bag of resources.
- **Network of Inquiry and Innovation** - Educators and administration from SD54 joined others from around the province on May 11-12 in Vancouver at this annual learning conversation. We were proud to have Ms. Nicole Davey selected once again to facilitate this conference.
- **PLC/NOII** - Meeting will be held on Monday, May 16. Educators discussed emerging issues in education, shared inquiry projects and discussed key themes from Pasi Sahlberg's, "Finnish Lessons"
- **School Conversations** – Superintendent van der Mark and Assistant Superintendent McDiarmid have begun meeting with schools to review school goals, progress, student success and plans for next year. These conversations help guide the year-end report from administration and guide district initiatives moving forward.
- **Innovation/Modernization "Wonderlab"**—The WonderLab is envisioned as a modern physical and virtual learning environment that will enable students to apply the revised curriculum, and allow students and teachers to collaborate. At this stage the WonderLab concept is a hypothesis that needs to be explored from a multitude of perspectives."

A core team comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Education, School Districts and Open Road Consulting have commenced working on the WonderLab concept. This past week two researchers from Open Road visited classrooms and interviewed teachers and students from SSS, BVEC, SIL and MME to add to their data as to what is the current educational context in BC. The consulting team and ministry representatives were very appreciative of how SD54 staff and students accommodated this visit with true Bulkley Valley hospitality on very short notice.

The core team will be working with data later this month as they work to bring the WonderLab concept to fruition.

- **Special Education Assistant Program** - The NWCC, Houston Campus, offered a Special Education Assistant Program that started in October 2016 and will wrap up in June 2017. Thirteen participants are enrolled in the program which prepares students to work as a paraprofessional in the field of education. School District #54 has been working closely with the program instructor to help provide opportunities for the students to engage in workshops presented by current and retired SD54 staff on current topics in education. The students in the program completed their first 3-week practicum in January/February with placements in all of our schools. Their second practicum is scheduled to begin on May 29 and students will be working in 5 of our schools for 3 weeks.

## School Based Initiatives

- **Graduation Ceremonies** – Graduation dates for Houston Secondary and Smithers Secondary are June 16<sup>th</sup> and June 24<sup>th</sup>, respectively.

# SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

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## Field Trip Proposals

- The following field trips have been approved by the Assistant Superintendent:
  - **SIL** – 155 +/- Grade K - 7 students from Silverthorne Elementary School to travel to Rough Acres Bible Camp to take part in the year – end school celebrations on June 26, 2017. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
  - **SIL** – 23 +/- Grade 4/5 students from Silverthorne Elementary School to travel to Ksan Historical Village on June 19, 2017. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.
  - **MME** - 28 +/- Grade 7 students from Muheim Memorial Elementary School to travel to Prince Rupert (Prudhomme Lake) and to Metlakatla on June 5-9, 2017. All Board requirements have been met for this trip.

## OPERATIONS

- **Field use** - Smithers Secondary field will remain closed until September and all other fields in the District, with the exception of Muheim Elementary, will remain closed until at least May 23rd due to extreme winter damage. Maintenance will re-evaluate at that time.
- **Transportation** - The District has received approval from the Capital Branch for an extra bus with mechanical lift capabilities to support new special education students entering our transportation system next September.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT 54**  
*(Bulkley Valley)*

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**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

*Regular*  
5:00 PM

School Board Office

Voting Members	Administration
F. Farrell, Chair J. Williams P. Michell  L. Kearns (ex officio)	C. van der Mark, Superintendent D. Margerm, Secretary Treasurer M. McDiarmid, Assistant Superintendent  E. Hildebrandt, Director, Facilities and Maintenance
Regrets:	

The meeting was held between 5:02-5:55 pm.

**Welcome:**     *Before we begin, I would like to acknowledge that we are gathered here today on the home of the Wit'suwit'en Nation, traditional territory of the Gidmt'en - Bear Wolf Clan."*

**REPORT**

**1. 2016-2017 Draft Budget**

Mr. Margerm provided an overview of the Draft 2017-2018 Budget to Committee. It will also be presented at a public meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and again at the public board meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Details of a balanced draft budget were presented. ***The Committee recommends proceeding with the 3rd reading of the 2017-2108 Budget Bylaw.***

**2. AFG request update**

Mr. Margerm gave an overview of the proposed AFG plans for \$654,140. Significant facility expenditures include new roofing at SSS and Learner Support, new student bathrooms at Muheim, renovation of metal shop at HSS and renewing gym floor at SSS.

**3. Capital Plan**

Mr. Margerm updated the Committee on Draft 2018-2019 District Capital Plan to be submitted to the Ministry by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017. ***The Committee recommends the Board approve the Draft 2017-2018 District Capital Plan as presented.***

**4. French Immersion Kindergarten Registration**

Mr. McDiarmid updated Committee on the current French Immersion registration. There has been a greater demand of kindergarten registrants, and therefore a larger waitlist. The waitlist was expanded after four applicants who had been told they were accepted, were moved to the waitlist due to the new teacher contractual restrictions. Senior administration is working to find a resolution to the four recall-waitlisted students. The policy committee is also in process of amending the current French Immersion Policy and has put it out for public consultation. Stakeholders concerned for French Immersion have been advocating for an additional (9<sup>th</sup>) French division. As noted by staff, this has implications to equitable staffing, employee positions, and budgeting. Administration has not, as of committee meeting, made any adjustments to planned staffing across the district.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT 54**  
*(Bulkley Valley*

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**5. Post and Fill Process:**

Mr. van der Mark updated the committee that senior administration is currently working towards the staffing post-and-fill process. It has been difficult with planning for positions due to new teacher contract language. We are proud of the fact we have been able to continue to maintain services and staffing despite declining enrollment. The posting process will begin in May.

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**Date & Time of Next Meeting: TBD**

**SCHOOL DISTRICT 54**  
*(Bulkley Valley)*

**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
*May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017      7:00 PM      School Board Office*

<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>Administration</b>
B. Beaubien, Chair L. Collingwood D. Hanson  L. Kearns (ex officio)	C. van der Mark, Superintendent D. Margerm, Secretary Treasurer M. McDiarmid, Assistant Superintendent
<b>Regrets:</b>	

**Welcome:**      *Before we begin, I would like to acknowledge that we are gathered here today on the home of the Wit'suwit'en Nation, traditional territory of the Gidmt'en - Bear Wolf Clan."*

**AGENDA**

**PREVIOUS MEETING OF March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Consultation</b>
6.320	French Language Programs <i>BN-P-1</i> (McDiarmid) Section 177 <i>BN-P-2</i> (Margerm) Superintendent Evaluation <i>BN-P-3</i> (Margerm) Calendar Planning Cycle	Revision Revision New Revision	

**NEW BUSINESS**

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Consultation</b>
6.320	Superintendent Evaluation <i>BN-P-1</i> (Margerm) Calendar Planning Cycle Reporting: Letter Grades  French Immersion - Out for consultation School Maintenance - Out for consultation	New New New	No Yes Yes

**1. Superintendent Evaluation**

The committee discussed the process for and evaluation of the Superintendent. Discussion included issues such as evaluation vs. growth plans, how often & when, timeline for reviews or review of recommendations, and options for linking evaluations to contracts or compensation. The committee has asked Mr. Margerm to provide draft language at the next committee meeting, based on past policy, outlining a growth plan and evaluation cycle in regards to a personal service contract.

Type:            New, Revision, Deletion  
Status:         In-committee, on-going, approved  
Consultation    Yes, Not required, Complete, Rejected

**SCHOOL DISTRICT 54**  
*(Bulkley Valley)*

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**2. Calendar Planning Cycle**

Agenda item postponed.

**3. Letter Grades**

Mr. McDiarmid has heard back from the elementary schools that are providing no letter grades in K-7 grades; at this point feedback seems positive. It will be necessary for the committee to work on policy in regards to letter grades in the future.

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**Date & Time of Next Meeting: TBD**

Type: New, Revision, Deletion  
Status: In-committee, on-going, approved  
Consultation: Yes, Not required, Complete, Rejected



# *School District No. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)*

*"To empower all learners to live the challenges of a diverse and changing world."*

## **Trustee Report**

BCSTA, AGM

April 20-23, 2017

### Day 1

- McNair Secondary School Choir
- Shane Pointe, Member of the Musqueam Nation Band, gave the traditional welcome
- Welcome Address, Teresa Rezanoff President, BCSTA
- Keynote speaker Andrew Coyne, Columnist, National Post and former Editor of Macleans Magazine. I enjoyed the many different perspectives he gave on current issues.

### Day 2

- Branch Meeting: I always enjoy these meetings and reconnecting with the Trustee from our area.
- Aboriginal Education in BC, Where do we go from here? Don Avison, Counsel, Avison and Associates
- "Public Education is the Key" provincial election forum on education
- BC Schools Provincials rugby 7's : Traveled to UBC campus to watch Houston Secondary Senior girls play in the provincial championship.
- Rethinking drug education and drug policy: Dan Reist, Assistant Director, Center for Addictions research BC, University Victoria.

### Day 3

- AGM Business Session
- Elections, BCSTA Board of Directors
- Motions

If anyone would like more information on these topics please refer to the BCSTA website, [www.bcsta.org](http://www.bcsta.org)

Respectfully submitted by:

Jen Williams

Vice Chairperson of the Board of Education



# *School District No. 54* (BULKLEY VALLEY)

*"To empower all learners to live the challenges of a diverse and changing world."*

**Trustee Report**  
BCSTA, AGM  
April 20-23, 2017  
Richmond BC

On April 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>, I attended the 113<sup>th</sup> convention of the BCSTA's Annual General Meeting in Richmond B.C. During my time I attended the following meetings/activities/workshops:

- Official opening by McNair Secondary School Choral Ensemble, Shane Pointe, member of the Salish Nation, and Teresa Rezanoff, President of the BCSTA.
- Keynote Address, "Perspectives on BC Politics and Education to Ensure that Public Education is the Key", presented by Andrew Coyne, former editor of Maclean's Magazine.
- Northwest Branch breakfast meeting.
- -Presentation entitled "Aboriginal Education in B.C.: Where to from here?" by Don Avison.
- Provincial election forum focused on "Education is the Key" by Liberal, NDP, and Green Party representatives.
- BCSTA elections for executive positions.
- Workshop entitled "Developing High Performing Governance Teams" by Stacey Holloway.
- AGM business session which featured 37 substantive motions and 3 late motions, which were either changed, passed, defeated, or referred.
- Attended a girls' Provincial play-off rugby game featuring the Houston Secondary School Wolverines.

The conference was both informative and entertaining and I appreciate the opportunity to attend. For more information please contact me or refer to the BCSTA webpage.

Respectfully submitted by:

Trustee Les Kearns  
Chairperson of the Board of Education

BCSTA AGM  
Richmond, BC  
April 20 – 23, 2017

We received a warm welcome by Shane Point to the Traditional Territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh. He acknowledged the importance of our work as Trustees in the education system. Following was a Keynote address from Andrew Coyne, National Post Columnist who presented his perspectives on BC Politics and Education to Ensure that "Public Education is the Key."

I attended a break out session on Equity in Action presented by the Ministry of Education, Aboriginal Education, Learning Division. The economic perspective is in everybody's interest to ensure we are all equal in education. Equity means we have the same opportunity. The "How are we doing?" Report is an equity measure. It was reported that BC is much closer then we think to closing the gap, with a little more effort, we may close the gaps together. Defining Equity, Aboriginal Student Success, the Ministry is currently working with various Districts to review and refine a proposal of a new model over the next year. Selected Districts will create an equity team, conduct an equity inventory, determine a District equity assessment, develop a theory of change, set equity action plans and goals. The review will be looking at transformative beliefs and/or system changes necessary to ensure equity for Aboriginal Learners and asking what must we do differently? Reviewing what these changes mean for each District, how do we change the learning environment and professional practice to move away from the habits of history?

I also attended Developing the Whole Child by Promoting Mental Well-Being in Schools. The redesigned Curriculum is a shift of a new mind-set. It focuses on the Social and well-being of our learners, it is strength based, instructions to help our learners move forward and a way of thinking holistically. Healthy Schools BC presented that their current goals are to strengthen cross sectoral partnerships. Their Regional Grants will be focused on the Mental Well-Being, the funding will be open to both public and First Nation operated schools. At the Ministry level, they want to articulate why this work is important by "Going Systemic." There will be a focus on systemic solutions not a "quick fix." A statement that stood out for me: "Possible solutions is creating contexts and conditions where learners' natural talents can flourish." I believe, as a District, we are moving in the right direction. There is always room for improvement, but we can celebrate the successes along the way.

The closing ceremony brought back elder, Shane Point, who led a blanket ceremony with our former President, Teresa Rezanoff. She was presented with a "Strength Blanket" that represents the strength of the people. We thank her for all she accomplished during her presidency and honour her for the years she dedicated in a leadership role of our Public Education system.

Awizah,

Priscilla Michell  
Trustee





# *School District No. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)*

*"To empower all learners to live the challenges of a diverse and changing world."*

## **Trustee Report**

BCSTA 113th AGM 'Educating for a Changing World'

April 20-23, 2017

Richmond BC

The conference began with the Official Opening Ceremonies which included a Traditional Welcome from Shane Pointe from the Musqueam and Coast Salish First Nation. Followed by an address from outgoing BCSTA President Teresa Rezanoff. The guest speaker Andrew Coyne Columnist and CBC Panelist, offered up his views on Politics and the lay of the land as it relates to Education. He compared and contrasted the leadership in both Canada and the United States. He gave great insight into how ideology and leadership is heading. However, his message lost me when he implied that leaders can only come from the well-educated. Leadership is learned from both formal and non-formal backgrounds. Politicians represent us and should reflect the wider demographic.

Friday the 21th of April offered an early breakfast meeting of the Northwest Branch members, Opening remarks from stakeholders and a presentation from Don Avison, entitled "Aboriginal Education in BC. Where do we go from here" He made the case of both the timeline in Education. His theme centered on the importance of increasing Aboriginal educational success. Avison made some very salient points including the missed opportunity in achieving full implementation of the Kelowna Accord under then Prime Minister Paul Martin.

In the afternoon I took in the plenary session entitled – Developing the Whole Child by promoting Mental Well-Being in schools. Their presentation on mental health in schools was further augmented with breakout discussions with fellow trustees at the table. Much insight was learned in developing strategies in connecting research and best practices dealing with the issue in all Districts in the province.

An all candidates forum from representatives of the three parties in the provincial election was eye opening in learning the platforms for future government educational policies and initiatives. In addition we had the BCSTA candidates answer questions sent in by Trustees. It was a spirited election this year as all positions were contested. In the end Gordon Swan was elected President, which has culminated eight years on the board of directors.

In addition to electing a board of directors we debated and passed a number of the thirty eight motions that were on the floor of the AGM. . One of the notable motions was to lobby the Provincial Government to set forth in motion a strategy to train and retain more French Language teachers. My AGM ended with the passing of the BCSTA Budget at the Provincial council meeting on the Sunday morning.

For more info contact [www.BCSTA.org](http://www.BCSTA.org).

Respectfully Submitted

Frank Farrell  
Trustee



# *School District No. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)*

*"To empower all learners to live the challenges of a diverse and changing world."*

**Trustee Report**  
BCSTA, AGM  
April 20-23, 2017  
Richmond BC

I attended the BCSTA AGM in Richmond this year, my second AGM as a trustee. As always, there was a full program. I attended the Pre-AGM workshop "Helpful Hints and Procedures for Chairing Effective Meetings" to increase my knowledge of parliamentary procedures for the AGM. I thoroughly enjoyed the keynote presentation from Andrew Coyne. His summation of provincial, national and international politics, parties and policies was engaging, succinct, clear and critical. I appreciated his perspective that politics hasn't proven to be good at the big conversations, a skill which we need to refine to navigate through some of the major challenges we are facing: international politics, aging population and health care, carbon pricing and climate change, to name a few.

Some exciting work to note in the region, shared out at the Branch Meeting on the first morning: Haida Gwaii has had their Haida IRP approved (it can be found on their website); Haida Gwaii has moved from a committee structure to portfolios, and added Mental Health and Wellness; Prince Rupert will have their strategic plan in hand in early June, after 5 months of hard work. The next Branch Meeting is scheduled for Sept 15 and 16 on Haida Gwaii.

The plenary session on day 2 by Don Avison on Aboriginal Education in BC was very informative. He presented a review/scan of studies and reports on Aboriginal Education over the past 2 + decades. Of note to read is "A Legacy for Learners" by Barry Sullivan. Overall, BC has taken an effective systems approach to improving outcomes for aboriginal learners. Moving forward, he recommended: clear articulation of priorities, directions and expectations; focus on K to Gr 4—if students' learning isn't solidified at these grades, they are much less likely to succeed; evolution of data to be more understandable and actionable; pre-service training and pro-d for teachers, and; learning strategies that reflect the diversity of the student population.

I attended the "Equity In Action" session from the Aboriginal Education Learning Division. They have developed a tool of parity measures to evaluate success in equity—how well are we assessing and addressing systemic barriers and student participation in education. Coast Mountain School District is 1 of 6 pilot districts in the province. In conversation with their Chair, there could be opportunities for us to shadow and learn from them. They presenters also shared the Ally Bill of Responsibilities by Lynn Gehl as a way to support non-indigenous people to successfully work alongside First Nations. I was inspired by this session and the role of systems change in fostering success, which led me to think about reconciliation work and its possible place in our district and at the board level. I will be bringing this topic of conversation to the June Aboriginal Education Council meeting.

The final day was for AGM business and the election of a new Board of Directors. Gordon Swan will be leading BCSTA for the coming year. There was a ceremony of thanks for Theresa Rezanoff for her years of leadership--she is leaving big shoes to fill! A summary of motions passed at the AGM has been distributed by BCSTA. Of note were motions to revisit the funding formula, and motions to further support and enhance Aboriginal Education in the province.

In appreciation,  
Dawn Hanson  
Trustee